

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Claims 1-8 and 10-20 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 10-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kelley. The Examiner states:

As for claims 1, 10 and 17, Kelley teaches a method for increasing control information from a single general purpose input/output (GPIO) mechanism (see figures 2, 5 load control logic 203, 303, hot plug control logic 305 and column 4 lines 57-67, wherein the load control logic 303, and the hot plug control logic 305 determine the presence/absence of the PCI cards into the PCI slots via the control signal bus 215, see column 3 lines 18-23), the method comprising: utilizing a single GPIO mechanism with a socket on a computer system (see figures 2, 5 load control logic 203, 303, hot plug control logic 305 and column 4 lines 57-67, wherein the load control logic 303, and the hot plug control logic 305 determine the presence/absence of the PCI cards into the PCI slots via the control signal bus 215, see column 3 lines 18-23); and determining whether a first card, a second card, or no card is installed in the socket according to detected changes in signals state on a single line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket (see figures 2, 5, control signal bus 215 and column 3 lines 18-23, wherein the signal bus 215 includes presence detect signal whether PCI card is plugged into the PCI slot. Further, figure 2, discloses slot#1 and slot#4 has PCI device and slot#2-3 are empty). ...

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

In the cited art of Kelley, the PCI system illustrated in Figure 2 includes 4 PCI slots, where

all four of the PCI slots have control signal output lines connected to a control signal bus 215. The control signals applied to the control signal bus 215 include "presence detect" signals from the PCI slots which indicate the presence or absence of a PCI device in each of the four slots shown in the exemplary embodiment.

This demonstrates Kelley's teaching of the use of a plurality of control signal lines applied to a signal bus with a separate presence detect signal line for each slot. Each presence detect signal line transmits a separate signal to indicate whether the slot to which it is connected is vacant or occupied. Thus, each of the plurality of presence detect signal lines applied to the signal bus is taught as being capable of indicating only two states for its corresponding socket. Applicant respectfully submits that such use of signal lines not only fails to teach or suggest the recited invention but teaches away from Applicant's recited invention.

As recited in the independent claims 1, 10, and 17 of the present invention, a single general purpose input/output (GPIO) mechanism is utilized with a socket on a computer system, and detection of at least three separate conditions of the socket occurs based on a single signal line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket. Claim 1 further recites that detected changes in signal states on the single signal line between the GPIO mechanism and the socket determine whether a first card, a second card, or no card is installed in the socket. This ability to detect at least three states on a single signal line in the present invention increases the control information available from the GPIO mechanism. Applicant fails to see how the use of a presence detect signal line for each slot to indicate only two states of the slot, as taught in Kelley, anticipates or even remotely suggests the recited utilization of a single signal line for determining three separate conditions/occupancy states of a socket. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 10, and 17 are allowable over the cited art. Further, claims 2-8, 11-16, and 18-20 depend from one of the independent claims. Thus, these dependent claims include the features of the independent claims that are believed to be allowable over the cited art, while adding further features.

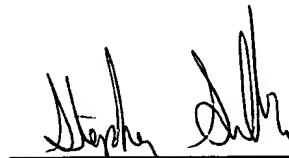
Therefore, claims 2-8, 11-16, and 18-20 are also respectfully submitted as allowable over the cited art for at least those reasons stated hereinabove.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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